

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 IO-13 HA-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ARA-10 /122 W
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P R 150750Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8816
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1298

PARIS/LONDON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID EFIN PINS MOPS CG LT
SUBJECT: ZAIRE: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO

REF: A. STATE 148404, B. MASERU 1281

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS C.D. MOLAPO
RECEIVED DCM AND ME MORNING JUNE 14 FOR 40-MINUTE
REVIEW OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS DURING WHICH I WAS ABLE TO
CONVEY TALKING POINTS REF A. FONMIN'S REACTION WAS AN
ECHO OF WHAT HIS PERMSEC SAID YESTERDAY (REF B). MALAPO
CLEARLY HAD HIS MIND OF MEETING OF PARLIAMENT LATER THAT
MORNING WHERE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO RESPOND TO WRITTEN
QUESTION ON WHETHER GOL AND CUBA WOULD ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS. HE ASKED US TO LISTEN TO HIS PROPOSED RESPONSE WHICH
WAS NEGATIVE ON GOL-CUBAN RELATIONS BUT REQUIRED THE LISTENER TO
DRAW THAT CONCLUSION. MOLAPO SIAD IT WAS WRITTEN TO AS TO AVOID
CALLING THE CUBANS LIARS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ASSISTANCE TO ZIAIRE. I DREW ON REF A TO BRIEF THE MINISTER ON
WESTERN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
ZIAIRE. THE MINISTER'S FIRST COMMENT WAS THAT THE OAU SHOULD DEAL
WITH
SHABA SITUATION WHICH HE SAID WAS AN "AFRICAN MATTER". A SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE OAU MIGHT WELL BE CONVENED

TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF "FOREIGN PRESENCE" IN AFRICA. HE SAID CUBAN/RUSSIAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA CREATES PRSSURE FOR OPPOSING FOREIGN PRESENCE. THIS COULD LEAD TO BUILDUP OF FOREIGN FORCES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. HE THOUGHT THE SOLUTION SHOULD BE A RESOLUTION CALLING ON ALL FOREIGN FORCES-RUSSION, CUBAN, AMERICAN AND OTHERS--TO LEAVE. I ASKED WHAT COULD BE DONE TO RESPOND TO CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN MAINTAINING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN THE ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE OAU PEACEKEEPING FORCES. MOLAPO REPLIED THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, ATTEMPTS TO CREATE AN OAU PEACEKEEPING FORCE HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL, ADDING THAT AFRICANS FEAR THAT THE FORCE WOULD IMPLY CONTROL. THIS INHIBITS THE CREATION OF AN EFFECTIVE FORCE BY THE OAU. MOLAPO CONCLUDED WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE US SHOULD "IN-SIST" THAT CUBANS AND RUSSIANS WITHDRAW FROM AFRICA.

3. SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE. I REVIEWED EFFORTS THE US HAS MADE TO ACHIEVE SOVIET/CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM AFRICA (DIPLOMATIC PERSUASION, OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS, LINKAGES, AND NOW PUBLICLY AND OPEN-
OY URGING WITHDRAWAL) AND SAID THE PROBLEM STILL REMAINS OF HOW TO ASSIST COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. MOLAPO SAID HE AGREED BUT FEARED THE CREATION OF AN AFRICAN FORCE BACKED BY THE WEST TO DEFEND ZAIRE WILL PROMOTE THE CREATION OF A COUNTER-FORCE BY AFRICAN NATIONS BACKED BY THE OTHER SUPER POWER. MOLAPO SAID HE THOUGHT A RESOLUTION WILL BE TABLED AT THE KHARTOUM OAU MEETING CALLING ON "ALL OUTSIDE FORCES" TO QUIT THE CONTINENT. I SAID THIS FORMULATION WOULD NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE AS THE MINISTER'S THE MINISTER'S EARLIER FORMULATION SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING SOVIET/CUBAN
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WITHDRAWAL. I ADDED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE CUBANS WOULD LEAVE ANGOLA; MOLAPO AGREED AND SAID CATEGORICALLY: "NETO WOULD FALL TOMORROW IF THE CUBANS WERE TO LEAVE."

4. LESOTHO/CUBA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. MOLAPO SAID HE WAS PREPAR-ING TO ANSWER A QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT REGARDING CUBAN/LESOTHO RELATIONS. HE DID NOT LIKE THE QUESTION THAT HAD BEEN PRESENTED WHICH STATED IN PART THAT THE GOL WAS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH CUBA, WHICH HAD BEEN "CREATING POLITICAL TENSIONS" IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. MOLAPO READ HIS PROPOSED STATEMENT WHICH CITED THE PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE MADE IN RESPONSE TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS SPECULATION. THE STATEMENT (TEXT BY SEPTTEL) EMPHA-SIZED THAT THE VISIT WAS FOR "FAMILIARIZATION" AND AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE CUBANS. HE SAID HE WOULD USE THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT AS THE OPENING TO HIS ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT. HE READ US HIS CONCLUDING COMMENT THAT ANY SPECULATION ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE CUBAN VISIT, APART FROM THOSE ALLUDED TO BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WAS "WASTEFUL AND MISGUIDED". I OBSERVED THAT THE STATEMENT DID NOT SAY CONCLUSIVELY THAT LESOTHO WAS NOT OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA WHICH THE CUBANS HAVE ANNOUNCED. THE MINISTER ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER I WANTED HIM TO CALL THEM (THE CUBANS) LIARS.

HE INVITED OUR SUGGESTIONS AS TO LANGUAGE THAT MIGHT STATE MORE CLEARLY THAT SPECULATION ABOUT THE OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. (WE SUGGESTED "INVALID AND MISLEADING"; THE MINISTER OBJECTED THAT HIS BORDERED ON CALLING THE CUBANS LIARS.) IT WAS LEFT UNSETTLED WHETHER THE MINISTER WOULD CHANGE THE LANGUAGE. NOTE: MOLAPO APPEARED IN PARLIAMENT LATE MORNING JUNE 14 AND USED THE TEXT AS READ TO US.

5. COMMENT: MINISTER MOLAPO'S POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS DICTATE HIS PRIORTIES. HIS PRINCIPAL PRE-OCCUPATION WAS THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ABOUT GOL-CUBA RELATIONS, NOT ZIAIRE TO WHICH HE HAD OBVIOUSLY GIVEN LITTLE SERIOUS THOUGHT. ON THE SUBJECT OF CUBA, DESPITE THE OBLIQUE LANGAUGE OF HIS STATEMENT HE WAS REMARKABLY OUTSPOKEN (WHILE TRYING STATEMENT OUT ON US) IN CONFIDENTIAL

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TELLING US (A) THAT THE GOL HAS NOT ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND DOES NOT INTEND TO DO SO AND (B) THAT CUBA IS "TELLING A LIE" IN ANNOUNCING THE CONTRARY.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED. NORLAND

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NNN

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